The North American House Hippo Is The G.O.A.T.

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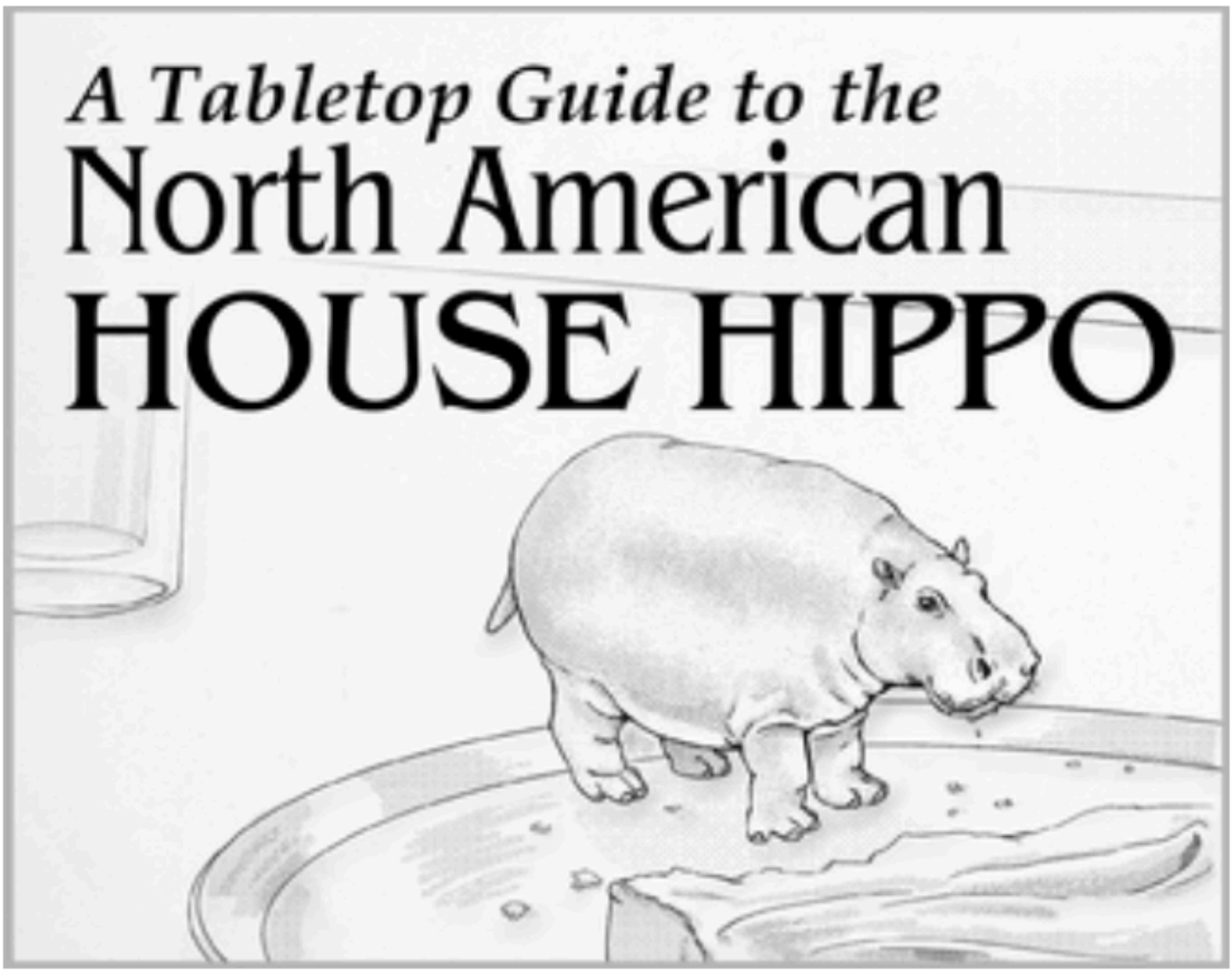
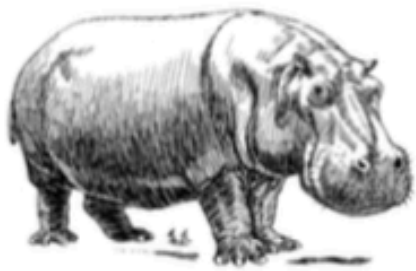
A Tabletop Guide to the

North American HOUSE HIPPO



First of all, I know YouTube doesn't actually need a plug, but you gotta go watch the Canadian commercial called "The Hidden World of the House Hippo." For real, go and have a looky-lou. I'll wait.



This gem from 1999 was designed as a public service announcement (targeting children) about reliability of sources.

THE TREE OCTOPUS DISCOVERS THE FAMILY'S FATE. IT IS THE SAME THAT WE ALL MUST FACE: OUR IMPENDING MORTALITY.

Very relatedly, the Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus was a hoax designed to teach children about information literacy in 1998. And it didn't work. It just made kids believe in Tree Octopuses. But I guess we lie to kids in this culture all the time (Santa, Tooth Fairy, etc). That could make life kind of confusing. The creature now has a cult following, much like house hippos and Bigfoot and birds (which are also not real?).

For additional reading, Wikipedia recommended "the spaghetti-tree hoax." In a 1957 broadcast for April Fool's Day, the BBC showed a family harvesting spaghetti from a tree. Spaghetti wasn't widespread in the UK at the time, which actually was the part that blew my mind more. (History! A mystery.) Wikipedia did not suggest the 1938 "War of the Worlds" radio hoax, but did suggest "drop bears" for further reading.

I spent a not insubstantial portion of my childhood in the 1990s using an aol dial up connection to research Lonnie G. Johnson, inventor of the Super Soaker.

All that while other people were just out here making stuff up the entire time! What was I even doing with my life?! Coulda just been out here photoshopping ghosts and fairies like a nineteenth century trickster.

IN CONCLUSION: your skepticism about the existence of either the loch ness monster or george washington is both healthy and justifiable.

was it possible that in this age
of ingenious manipulation

photographs could be accepted
as evidence?
– sir arthur conan doyle, 1912

Well, you know what they don't say: Curiosity killed the cat, but satisfaction brought it back. - ***fin?*** -